

## **Ban on Myanmar Goods Lifted by Executive Order**

On October 7, 2016, President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order officially lifting the ban on gemstones and Jade from Myanmar. The ban was lifted “by Myanmar’s substantial advances to promote democracy; ...and the formation of a democratically elected, civilian-led government; the release of many political prisoners; and greater enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms...” The Executive Order clears all gemstones, including Rubies and Jade from Myanmar, including current and future inventory.

The Burma Ruby Task Force, led by American Gem Trade Association CEO Douglas K. Hucker and President Jeffrey Bilgore, Jewelers of America President and CEO David Bonaparte, and the Gemological Institute of America’s Dr. James Shigley has been on the ground in Myanmar during this development. Also on the trip was Timothy Haake of Haake/Fetzer, senior counsel to JA, and representatives from the Inle Advisory Group, a Myanmar-focused business consulting group. The coalition met with industry stakeholders, government officials, gemstone dealers and miners to help assess the market outlook and to move forward developing bilateral trade between the two countries. In light of the recent lift of the ban, the coalition will continue to work with representatives to help develop a transparent supply chain that is viable for Myanmar as well as the industry as a whole.

For more information, please contact AGTA at 800-972-1162 or [info@agta.org](mailto:info@agta.org).



*Burma Ruby Task Force Members meet with Myanmar Gem & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association in Yangon.*